

English A Reading Instruction

Reading Strategy: Learning New Vocabulary by Learning *Derivatives*

Learning new words is very important to improving your reading skills. One of the most important Reading Strategies you can develop is the way to learn AND remember new words and phrases. One of the easiest ways to increase the number of words you know is to learn all the "**derivatives**" (派生語) of the new words you encounter in your reading. Derivatives are the different forms of English words. Almost all English words have several forms of the same word depending on how the word is *used* in a sentence. For example, look at the following sentence.

singular
noun
past tense
verb
plural
noun
adjective

The teacher taught the teachings of Buddha to the unteachable student.

In this one sentence, there are several forms of the word "teach". In this sentence, "teach" is what is called a "base" word because from this one word we can *build* several different words. These different words have similar meanings but different uses.

	<u>Word Form</u>	<u>Derivatives</u>
Base Word: TEACH	verb: infinitive	to teach (I like to teach English.)
	verb: present tense singular	teaches (She teaches English.)
	verb: present tense plural	teach (They teach English.)
	verb: <i>-ing</i> form	teaching (He is teaching English today.)
	verb: past tense	taught (I taught English last year)
	verb: past participle	taught (I have taught English before)
	adjective	teachable (He is a very teachable boy.)
	noun 1	teacher (My brother is a teacher)
	noun 2	teaching (The teachings of Jesus Christ are very beautiful)

When building new words from the base word, we often use **prefixes** (接頭辞) and **suffixes** (接尾辞). A prefix is something added to the beginning of the base word. Suffixes are added to the end of the word. For example, in the word **unteachable**, we have the base word "**teach**", a prefix "**un-**" (which means "not") and a suffix "**-able**" (which means "to be able to do something"). By adding this prefix and suffix, we create a new word from the base word. This new word is an adjective that means: not able to teach. When you are looking for derivatives, try also to memorize the meanings of the most common prefixes and suffixes you encounter.

Not all English words have derivatives, but most have several. For your Reading Journal, you will be expected to find 3 related words for every new word on your Personal Vocabulary List. Finding the derivative of your new words is an easy way to find these related words. By doing this, you can also increase your vocabulary and get a better feel for how English words can be used in a sentence. The following is a list of the different forms an English word MIGHT take.

noun: 名詞	<i>-ing</i> form (present participle) 現在分詞
adjective: 形容詞	past participle 過去分詞
adverb: 副詞	auxiliary verb 助動詞
verb: infinitive 不定詞	preposition 前置詞
verb: present tense singular 單数現在形動詞	pronoun 代名詞
verb: present tense plural 現在複数形動詞	conjunction 接統詞
verb: past tense 過去形動詞	

In addition to derivatives, you can also use **synonyms** and **antonyms** for the related word section of your Personal Vocabulary List of your Reading Journal. Synonyms (類義語) are words that have the same meaning such as big-large, small-little, teacher-instructor. Antonyms (反対語) are words that have the opposite meaning such as big-small, hot-cold, teacher-student. For your first Reading Journal entry that you will hand in next week, I would like you to have one or two derivatives AND one or two synonyms or antonyms. That way you will be learning a wide variety of new vocabulary!

Practice Activities

Starting this week, we will begin to practice the reading strategies you learn in class by reading the short story, "When Rain Clouds Gather." Every week we will read one or two chapters and we will finish this book by Week 12. I will bring copies of the story each week, so please keep them in your folders.

Activity 1 Reading Out Loud With your group, read "A Note about the Story" on pages 4-6 of "When Rain Clouds Gather." Read out loud and as smoothly as you can. Don't read like a robot and don't use KATAKANA EIGO!

Activity 2 Finding Derivatives With your group, find these words in the passage you just read and write their derivatives. You may use a dictionary, but try to do without a dictionary first.

Example: independent word form in story adjective (page 4, line 1)
noun independence adverb independently antonym dependent

1. government word form in story _____ (page 4, line 3)
adjective _____ noun _____ verb _____
2. ruled word form in story _____ (page 4, line 7)
noun _____ noun _____ adjective _____
3. peacefully word form in story _____ (page 4, line 21)
adjective _____ noun _____ antonym _____
4. freedom word form in story _____ (page 4, line 26)
adjective _____ adverb _____ verb _____
5. hope word form in story _____ (page 5, line 10)
adjective _____ adverb _____ antonym _____

Activity 3 Comprehension Questions Read the passage again. Then, with your group, discuss these questions and write your answers as fully as possible. Try to use English as much as you can in your group discussion.

1. What was the relationship between Botswana and Great Britain?

2. Where is Botswana? What countries surround Botswana?

3. What is the government system of Botswana? Explain the difference between "local" and "paramount" chiefs.

4. What is the geography and climate of Botswana?

5. How do most people in Botswana make a living?

Answers to Practice Activities

Activity 2

1. government word form in story: noun

adjective: governable, governmental, governing, governance noun: governor, governess, governorship

verb: to govern, to governmentalize

2. ruled word form in story: past participle verb

noun: rule, ruler, ruling, rulership adjective: ruling, rutable, ruleless

3. peacefully word form in story: adverb

adjective: peaceful noun: peace antonym: unpeacefully, war-like, belligerently

4. freedom word form in story: noun

adjective: free adverb: freely verb: to free

5. hope word form in story: noun

adjective: hopeful adverb: hopefully antonym: hopelessness, despair

Activity 3

1. What is the relationship between Botswana and Great Britain?

Until 1966, Botswana was called Bechuanaland and was controlled by Great Britain. In 1966, Bechuanaland became an independent country and had a new name: Botswana.

2. Where is Botswana? What countries surround Botswana?

Botswana is in southern Africa. It is surrounded by South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe,

3. What is the government system of Botswana? Explain the difference between "local" and "paramount" chiefs.

Before 1966, Botswana was called a "protectorate", which means that local areas were governed by tribal chiefs, but the police force and government workers were from Great Britain. There were two types of tribal chiefs: local and paramount chiefs. Paramount chiefs controlled large areas of land. Local chiefs worked for the paramount chiefs and controlled much smaller areas, such as one village. Although the chiefs were in charge, the people of Botswana could own their own land.

4. What is the geography and climate of Botswana?

Botswana is a very large country about the same size as France. Most of Botswana is desert and gets very little rain. However, the eastern areas of Botswana have better soil, so most of Botswana's small population live there. Sometimes Botswana has drought and no rain falls.

5. How do most people in Botswana make a living?

Most people in Botswana have farms and raise cattle. Since there is little rain, people in Botswana have learned to find and use water very carefully.